

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 14, 2008

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.B. 291 [Driving & Text Messaging]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 291 which creates restrictions on the operation of a motor vehicle while using a mobile telecommunications device to view or send text messages, pictures or emails. Specifically, the bill would prohibit holding or viewing a mobile telecommunication device to view or send a text message, picture, or email. Violation would be considered a secondary offense subject to a maximum fine of \$25.00.

The attached article notes that a National Insurance survey found that 1 in 5 drivers admit to sending text messages while driving. The article also cites a AAA poll of Delaware motorists in which 29% cited distracted driving as the biggest danger on the road, second only to aggressive driving.

SCPD endorses the proposed legislation given the Council's interest in deterring accidents resulting in disability (e.g. traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury).

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

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